hf happenings

World Radio Communication Conference 2015 starts on 2 November

Amateur Radio's interests will be well represented as the 2015 ITU World Radiocommunication Conference or WRC-15 convenes from 2 November in Geneva, Switzerland. Preparations have been under way since the last WRC wrapped up in 2012. Held every 3 or 4 years, WRCs review, and, if necessary, revise the Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the use of the radio frequency spectrum. Delegates will consider several items of interest to the Amateur Radio community during the nearly month-long international gathering. International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, and several others from the three Regions will be on the IARU team or in other delegations.

The primary WRC-15 agenda item of interest to most radio amateurs is Agenda Item 1.4, which calls on delegates to consider the possibility of allocating an appropriate amount of spectrum - not necessarily contiguous - to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis within the band 5 250 to 5 450 kHz. Many amateurs have been hoping for a band, rather than the discrete channels now available in the US and in several other countries.

Other items that could affect Amateur Radio include:

Agenda Item 1.1, to consider additional spectrum for mobile services on a primary basis and identification of additional bands for commercial mobile telephony and data service - in essence, smartphones. In 2007, nearly 90 countries identified 3 400 to 3 500 MHz in the amateur 9-centimetre band for this purpose. Efforts to maintain amateur access to this band since then has been a country-by-country effort.

Agenda Item 1.6.1 will consider possible additional primary allocations for the fixed-satellite service of 250 MHz between 10 GHz and 17 GHz in Region 1. It also would review regulatory provisions on current fixed-satellite service allocations, considering ITU-R studies. The amateur 10 GHz allocation is not a potential target.

Agenda Item 1.10 seeks additional mobile-satellite allocations, including the satellite component of broadband applications, including mobile telephony and data services, in the range from 22 to 26 GHz. Proponents have not identified the amateur 24 GHz allocation as a potential solution.

Agenda Item 1.12 would consider extending the current worldwide allocation to the Earth exploration-satellite (active) service (EESS) in the band 9 300 to 9 900 MHz by up to 600 MHz, which would intrude into the amateur 10 GHz allocation. Although EESS is likely to obtain a primary allocation that overlaps the 10 GHz band in full or in part, its impact on Amateur Radio would likely be nominal

Agenda Item 1.18 will address automotive radar applications at 77,5 to 78,0 GHz. Studies have indicated general compatibility with these applications and Amateur Radio and, in any case, the primary status of Amateur Radio is not proposed to be downgraded.

Operating Tip

Always read the rules for the contest in which you are going to participate, even if you have entered this contest a few times before. Rules can change, as can the exchange format or abbreviations used (es-

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925

pecially for QSO parties). There may be new categories you would like to enter. Just reading the rules may jog loose something that you wanted to remember from last year's participation, but did not.

RaDAR Challenge

The RaDAR "Challenge" is a unique event aimed at promoting the use of Rapidly Deployable Amateur Radio stations. This challenge is for all licensed radio amateurs not limited to South Africa. A RaDAR operator can take part in any of the three defined categories, which may be changed at any time during the challenge. The points system is so structured as to encourage portable RaDAR operations, especially moveable RaDAR stations. Moveable RaDAR stations rely on fixed and portable stations as a point of contact using channelised frequencies. "Search and pounce" techniques are also allowed.

The RaDAR challenge starts at 00:00 UTC and ends at 23:59 UTC on Saturday 7 November 2015 - 24 hours will give equal opportunity to the international community of RaDAR operators. RaDAR operators can define their own operating time schedule or remain active for the full 24 hours. All amateur bands can be used including cross band contacts via amateur radio satellites, and you can use CW, SSB, AM, FM or any legal digital mode. QSOs via terrestrial repeaters will NOT be allowed. The recommended digital modes frequencies – refer to the South African Radio League Contest Manual, General Rule 15.

For the latest international list of frequencies, visit http://zs6bne.wordpress.com/2013/03/06/radar-calling-frequencies/. The WARC bands can be used considering this is a RaDAR Challenge and not a contest as such. It pro-

vides better opportunities for RaDAR contacts during difficult propagation conditions.

The RaDAR challenge requires more than a minimalistic information exchange. Accurate information exchange is considered more important than a large QSO count. Your call sign, name, RS(T) report, QTH and grid locator are exchanged. Note the grid locator can change as RaDAR operators are allowed to move position at any time. The grid locator of six characters is acceptable but should preferably be accurate to 10 characters for higher position accuracy. Smartphone applications are generally used to establish more than a 6-character grid locator. If working non-participating stations, call sign, name, RST and QTH is acceptable.

1 point is earned per QSO. Individual QSOs – per mode, per band, per satellite, per call sign. If the moving RaDAR station has moved the required distance (see below)

contact can be made with a previously worked station, again.

The following multipliers are applicable to determine the final score. If category/mode of transport changes were made during the challenge, than calculate accordingly.

x 1 – RaDAR Fixed station (at home or in another building)

x 2 – RaDAR Field station (portable – away from home)

x 3 – Moving RaDAR station – see modes of transport below.

Modes of transport and required movement distances (moving RaDAR stations only)

Vehicles, motorcycles and motorboats, etc., (motorised transport) – 6 km

Bicycles – 2 km

On foot and paddle canoes – 1 km

Wheelchairs – 500 m

Aeronautical mobile stations are considered moving stations and can communicate at any convenient time.

Note: Moving RaDAR stations can move at any time but are required to move to the next destination after five contacts have been made from the present location. The move needs to cover the required distance before further contacts are allowed to be made. This requirement tests the ability to rapidly re-deploy your amateur radio field station.

Bonus points (all categories) - Five (5) points (the equivalent of five QSOs) for a minimum of one satellite or any digital modes QSO involving a computer, smartphone or digital modes device. (For clarity thereafter 1 point per Satellite/Digital modes QSO).

Five (5) points for the first successful same continent RaDAR to RaDAR QSO (as may be confirmed by the extensive information exchange.

Five (5) points for the first intercontinental (DX) QSO

Ten (10) points for the first successful inter continental (DX) RaDAR to RaDAR QSO (As may be confirmed by the extensive information exchange).

Log sheets must be submitted by 17 November 2015 and sent by e-mail to edleighton@gmail.com. Contact Eddie, ZS6BNE, for a log sheet specifically designed for the 2015 RaDAR contest.

Note: A photo of the station (JPG format) MUST accompany every log entry. A photo is required for each new location that moveable stations visit. These photos are used to promote amateur radio and the RaDAR concept showing where amateur radio can be used to communicate from and in the many different ways.

The Pears HF DX Contest

The aim of the PEARS HF DX Contest is to encourage Southern African radio amateurs to work DX. The contest takes place on Sunday 8 November 2015 starting at 12:00 UTC and ending at 16:00 UTC and it is a phone only contest with activity on 20, 15 and 10 metres.

You can participate as a single operator, base or field station or a multi operator, base or field station. Stations may use the maximum power permitted according to the regulations in the country of operation.

The exchange is a call sign and RS report. One point is earned for each QSO. A station may be contacted once on each contest band Field stations must multiply their score by two (2) and a further multiplier of two (2) is available if the station uses a non-gain antenna with reference to a dipole. Then the score is multiplied by the number of countries contacted

Should more than three logs be received per category, a certificate will be awarded to the winner in each category.

Log sheets must be submitted by 22 November 2015 to the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 10402, Linton Grange, Port Elizabeth, 6015 or by e-mail to contest@peham.co.za. No late submissions will be considered

North Korea, P5

The "DXNEWS" reports that Dom, 3Z9DX, is planning to be active from North Korea (Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea), January - February 2016 as P5/3Z9DX. He has the license to operate on 3 bands, but he is planning to concentrate his operation on 20 m only SSB using 100 watts into a GP7 vertical antenna. QSL via his home call sign.

Added Note: Dom just recently came back from the GXP antenna factory. Waldek, SP7GXP, and Dom made final adjustment on the GP7 Vertical antenna. This antenna will go with Dom to North Korea during a December trip together with other radio equipment. Waldek, SP7GXP, is a well-known manufacturer of antennas and his company GXP antennas is also well known. You can visit Waldek's web site at http://sp7gxp.pl.

African DX

Benin, TY. Michal, SQ3PMM is active as TY4AB. Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using CW and SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to his home call.

Nicolas, F8FQX (ex-TJ3SN, TN5SN, 5T5SN), who recently went QRT from Cameroon in July, will be or has moved to Benin and will be active as TY2AC for the next three years. Activity will be on 160 to 6 metres using CW and SSB. QSL via IZ1BZV direct or LoTW.

Kenya, 5Z. Manfred, DK1BT, Sigi, DL7DF, Reiner, DL7KL, and Frank, DL7UFR, will be active as 5Z4HW from 4 to 18 November. They are active on 160 to 6 m with two set-

ups on CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. Their pilot will be Bernd, DF3CB. Also, watch out for them signing 5Z4/home calls. QSL via DL7DF, direct or via the bureau. http://www.dl7df.com/5z4hw_2015/

Morocco, CN. Special call sign CN40MV will be active between 3 and 8 November to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the so-called Marche Verte (Green March). QSL via EB7DX. In addition, all amateur radio operators from Morocco can use the CN40 prefix followed by their individual suffixes during those days.

Senegal, 6W. Earl, WA3DX, will be active from different areas around Senegal between 26 December and 12 January. Activity will be limited as time permits from the following areas: Dakar as 6W1/WA3DX, Mbao as 6W7/WA3DX, Kaolack as 6W6/WA3DX and Saloum Islands (not IOTA) as 6W6/WA3DX. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using SSB. QSL via WA3DX.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Madagascar, 5R. Eric, F6ICX will be active as 5R8IC from Sainte-Marie Island, IOTA AF-090, from 1 November to 12 December. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using mostly CW with some SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL direct to home call.

Reunion Island FR. Anne, OH2YL, will be active as FR/OH2YL from Reunion Island (AF-016) from 22 November to 1 December. She will operate CW on 160 to 10 metres and will participate in the CQ WW DX CW Contest. QSL via home call.

Coetivy Island, AF-119. New IOTA - S79C Press release #4, dated 1 November. [edited]

The much-anticipated Coetivy Island (AF-119 NEW) DXpedition is soon to begin. After 5 months of intense preparations, the S79C team would like to remind you that in less than 2 weeks time, Christian, EA3NT, Dave, EI9FBB, Col, MM0NDX, Ronald, PA3EWP, Jacek, SP5APW and Craig, VK5CE, will transit through their national airports en-route to Mahe, Seychelles.

We are pleased to confirm that our requested S79C call sign has now been officially issued and all paperwork is in hand. In addition, planning and logistics are now complete.

All six operators, and in excess of 300 kg of equipment, need to fly the final 300 km to Coetivy island and land on the short 500 m airstrip. This final flight is by private airplane charter and actually doubles the overall budget. Without doubt, this is a hugely expensive IOTA DXpedition and we are indebted to each donor and sponsor. However, we do seek additional funding support. Until 6 November, we still offer a 'Free QSL' for advance donors of €5 or more. Your generous contribution is most welcome and helps offset our enormous costs.

If you would like to support this unique activation, please visit http://www.af119new.com/donate

Furthermore, the team is delighted to inform that 50 MHz will be used – a dedicated station will run 24/7 during our stay on Coetivy. Our suggested beacon frequency is 50,103.5 MHz. It should be noted that S7 is very rare on the 'magic band' and we are thrilled to have this special permission!

This is our final Press Release. Next official dialogue will be whilst our team is en-route and only via our Twitter feed @af119new https://twitter.com/af119new. Follow us for the very latest updates. (Note: some team members may also update their individual Facebook page as they journey to AF-119).

We wish all very good luck in the pile-ups and look forward to seeing you in our log! Vy 73 de S79C team.

Guinea, 3XY (update). Members of the Italian DXpedition Team will be active as 3XY1T from the Los Islands (AF-051, WW Loc. IJ39cl) between 18 February and 4 March 2016. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Their official DXpedition web site www.i2ysb.com/idt has a dedicated 3XY1T "Needs & Wants Survey" form available on it. The results will be used in the planning of activity on the various bands.

However, activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Current list of operators are Silvano, I2YSB, Vinicio, IK2CIO, Angelo, IK2CKR, Marcello, IK2DIA, Stefano, IK2HKT, Mac, JA3USA, Gino, IK2RZP and Alfeo, I1HJT. The team is looking for funds (see web page for details). QSL via I2YSB direct only. An OQRS will be available on their Web site.

News from the Intrepid DX Group VP8STI/VP8SGI Team

At this time, we would like to announce several new aspects of the VP8STI/VP8SGI DXpeditions:
Youth and Community Participation

Since the early 1990s, the Intrepid DX-Group's leadership, David, K3LP, Paul, N6PSE, and other team members, have led our effort to incorporate "Youth Development and Community Involvement" in our Amateur Radio DXpeditions. Those included were the ET3AA Addis Abba University in 2011; 3D2R Rotuma Youth Project in 2011; Dorothy Grant Elementary School Amateur Radio Club, K6DGE, and School Students in 2010-present; YI9PSE Iraq; T33C Banaba;

ST0R South Sudan in 2013; XZ1J Myanmar in 2013; 8P6R in 2005; 3D2DC in 2004; VU3RWO in 2006; J6R, J6/K3LP in 1997-2003; A61AF Dubai Men's College/A61AJ 1996-1998 and many others.

During the South Sandwich and South Georgia Island DXpedition, our Honorary School this trip is the trusted Dorothy Grant Elementary School in Fontana, CA. The 4th Grade Class students of teacher Beverly Matheson, WA6BK, have prepared a DGES Flag that will travel to and from the islands. In addition, the students have prepared a small weather tracking experiment for the DXpedition to participate. We hope to continue to ignite the interest of these students in Amateur Radio.
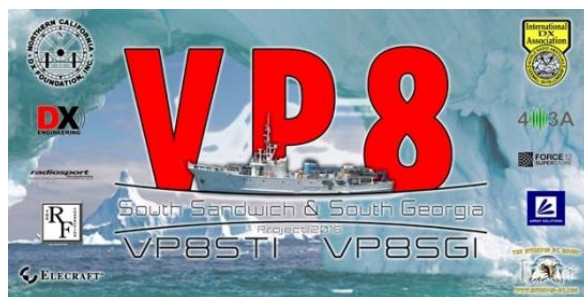
DXpedition Pilot Program:

Experienced DXpeditioner Antonio Gonzalez, EA5RM will be led our regional DXpedition Pilot Program. Antonio will communicate with each of our regional Pilot stations to ensure that we are satisfying the needs of the global DX Community and that we are aware of propagation and other issues. Our regional Pilots are as follows:
EU/Chief Pilot - Antonio Gonzalez, EA5RM
US East Coast - Peter Dougherty, W2IRT
US West Coast - Chuck Vaughn, AA6G
JA/Asia - Harumi Kukita, JR4OZR
VK/ZL & Oceania - Paul Richards, VK4MA

You can contact them via our website by clicking on their photograph on the main page of our website at http://www.intrepid-dx/com/vp8 Our pilots are entrusted to help us meet your needs as best as they can. Our pilots will not have access to our logs, all log-

ging issues will be addressed by our QSL Manager following the conclusion of both activations.

At this time, all plans are moving forward and we expect to be active on 17 January as VP8STI. Please watch for updates and announcements in The Daily DX, DX-World, DX Coffee and DX News.

Thank you, Paul, N6PSE, Co-Leader, VP8 Team

History this week
The week starting 2 November 2015

Contest Calendar
This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 2 to 9 November 2015

ARS Spartan Sprint
02:00 - 04:00 UTC 3 November
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Skinny; Tubby
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and power
Work stations: Once per band
Submit logs by: 5 November 2015
E-mail logs to: spartansprint@yahoo.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://arsqrp.blogspot.com/2009/02/so-whats-spartan-sprint-and-how-do-i.html

QRP Fox Hunt
01:00 - 02:30 UTC 4 November
Mode: CW
Bands: 40 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 5 November 2015
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 4 November
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 6 November 2015
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CW Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 4 November and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 5 November
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 7 November 2015
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html

UKEICC 80 m Contest
20:00 - 21:00 UTC 4 November
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op Connected - open, low or QRP; Single Op Unconnected - open, low or QRP
Max power: Open: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: 4-Character grid square
QSO Points: 1 point per 500 km; multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 22:00 UTC 4 November 2015
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at:
http://logs.ukeicc.com/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ukeicc.com/which-contest/contest-rules/ukeicc-80   m-contests-rules

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest
18:00 - 19:00 UTC 5 (CW), 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (SSB), 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (FM) and 21:00 - 22:00 UTC (Dig) 5 November
Mode: CW, SSB, FM, Digital
Bands: 10 m Only
Classes: (none)

Exchange: RS(T) and 6-character grid square
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 19 November 2015
Upload log at:
http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests/below-30mhz.html

QRP Fox Hunt
01:00 - 02:30 UTC 6 November
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 7 November 2015
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 6 November
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 8 November 2015
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 6 November
Mode: (see rules)
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 8 November 2015
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

IPARC CW Contest
06:00 - 10:00 UTC 7 November and 14:00 - 18:00 UTC 7 November
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi; SWL
Exchange: USA IPA Members: RST, serial no and "IPA" and State; non-USA IPA Members: RST, serial no and "IPA"; non-IPA Members: RST and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 5 points per QSO with IPA Member
Multipliers: Each country once per band; Each US state once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 December 2015
E-mail logs to: dj6qq@darc.de
Mail logs to: Uwe Greggersen, DJ6QQ, Hurststr 9, D-51645 Gummersbach, Germany
Find rules at: http://www.iparc.de

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon

12:00 UTC 7 November to 24:00 UTC 8 November
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: (none)
Max operating hours: 24
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or "NONE"
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 14 November 2015
Post log summary at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/submit-display.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/

Ukrainian DX Contest
12:00 UTC 7 November to 12:00 UTC 8 November
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band Mixed - CW and SSB - QRP, low or high; Single Op All Band - CW or SSB - low or high; Single Op Single Band Mixed - CW and SSB; Multi-Single Mixed - CW and SSB
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Ukraine: RS(T) and 2-letter oblast; non-Ukraine: RS(T) and serial no
Work stations: Once per band per mode- CW or SSB
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with different country, same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent; non-UR Stations: 10 points per QSO with Ukraine
Multipliers: UR Stations: each DXCC/WAE country once per band; non-UR Stations: each DXCC/WAE country once per band; non-UR Stations: each Ukraine oblast once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 8 December 2015
E-mail logs to: urdxc@ukr.net
Web-to-Cabrillo form:
http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/ukrainiandx_cab.php
Mail logs to: Ukrainian Contest Club HQ, PO Box 4850, Zaporozhye 69118, Ukraine
Find rules at:
http://urdxc.org/rules.php?english

ARRL Sweepstakes CW Contest
21:00 UTC 7 November to 03:00 UTC 9 November
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Single Op Unlimited - low or high; Multi-Single - low or high; School Club – college, technical or secondary
Max operating hours: 24 with at least 30 minute off times
Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Serial no, precedence (Q, A, B, U, M and S), your call sign, check and ARRL or RAC section
Work stations: Once only
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO
Multipliers: Each ARRL/RAC section and VE NT once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 24 November 2015
E-mail logs to: SSCW@arrl.org
Web-to-Cabrillo form:
http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/arrlsscw_cab3.php
Mail logs to: November SS CW, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA
Find rules at:
http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

NA Collegiate ARC CW Championship
21:00 UTC 7 November to 03:00 UTC 9 November
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: School Club - college
Max operating hours: 24 with at least 30 minute off times
Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Serial no, precedence (Q, A, B, U, M and S), your call sign, check and ARRL or RAC section
Work stations: Once only
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO
Multipliers: Each ARRL/RAC section and VE NT once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 24 November 2015
E-mail logs to: SSCW@arrl.org
E-mail log summary to: wm5r@wm5r.org
Mail logs to: November SS CW, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA
Find rules at:
http://www.collegiatechampionship.org/rules/

IPARC SSB Contest
06:00 - 10:00 UTC and 14:00 - 18:00 UTC 8 November
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi; SWL
Exchange: USA IPA Members: RS, serial no, "IPA" and state; non-USA IPA Members: RS, serial no and "IPA"; non-IPA Members: RS and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 5 points per QSO with IPA Member
Multipliers: Each country once per band; Each US state once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 December 2015
E-mail logs to: dj6qq@darc.de
Mail logs to: Uwe Greggersen, DJ6QQ, Hurststr 9, D-51645 Gummersbach, Germany
Find rules at: http://www.iparc.de

EANET Sprint
08:00 - 12:00 UTC 8 November

Mode: Any
Bands: Any
Classes: Individual - Spain or non-Spain; Club - Spain or non-Spain - member or friend
Exchange: RS(T)
Work stations: Once
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with an individual; 3 points per QSO with a friend radio club; 5 points per QSO with a member radio club
Multipliers: Each ISO 3166-1 country once; each continent once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total countries x total continents
Submit logs by: 22 November 2015
E-mail logs to: eanet-sprint@fediea.org
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.fediea.org/news/?news=20151108

DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest
11:00 - 17:00 UTC 8 November
Mode: RTTY, Amtor, Clover, PSK31, Pactor
Bands: 10 m Only
Classes: Single Op; SWL
Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each WAE/DCXX area; Each W/VE call area
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23 November 2015
E-mail logs to: do1npf@darc.de
Mail logs to: Peter Frank, DO1NPF, Postfach 11 19, 90515 Altdorf, Germany
Find rules at:
http://www.darc.de/referate/ukw-funksport/corona/teilnahmebedingungen/

Next Week's Contests

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 11 November
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 11 November
CWops Mini-CW Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 11 November and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 12 November

RSGB 80 m Club Sprint, SSB, 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 11 November

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 13 November

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 13 November

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 13 November

WAE DX Contest, RTTY, 00:00 UTC 14 November to 23:59 UTC 15 November

10-10 International Fall Contest, Digital, 00:01 UTC 14 November to 23:59 UTC 15 November

JIDX Phone Contest, 07:00 UTC 14 November to 13:00 UTC 15 November

OK/OM DX Contest, CW, 12:00 UTC 14 November to 12:00 UTC 15 November

Kentucky QSO Party, 14:00 UTC 14 November to 02:00 UTC 15 November

CQ-WE Contest, 19:00 - 23:00 UTC 14 November (CW/Digital); 01:00 - 05:00 UTC (Phone) and 19:00 - 23:00 UTC 15 November (Phone) and 01:00 - 05:00 UTC 16 November (CW/Digital)

Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party, 13:00 - 15:00 UTC (40 m) and 15:00 - 17:00 UTC 15 November (80 m)

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 16 November

Oooops

A 240 foot (73 m) long, 3,5 ton military blimp went AWOL for a number of hours last week. Breaking free from its tethered aerostat system at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, the blimp rose to and drifted at 16,000 feet (4 877 m) for tens of miles. According to reports, fighter jets were scrambled to track it until it eventually landed and started to deflate in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Local coverage reveals some interesting pictures. The 6 700 foot (2 042 m) long tether attached to the airship wreaked havoc with electrical utilities during its descent, causing outages affecting up to 30 000 customers. After it reached the ground, and after the electronics payload had been removed, police used shotguns to accelerate the deflation of the airship. (K3HX)

http://www.defenseone.com/technology/2015/10/breaking-us-military-blimp-down-over-pennsylvania/123218/

http://abc27.com/2015/10/28/runaway-blimp-crosses-lancaster-county/

Lightning

The beginning of a lightning strike has been caught on a camera shooting 11 000 frames per second. It appears to show that the lighting 'bolt' can start from both positively or negatively charged areas at the same time.

http://www.realclearscience.com/journal_club/2015/10/20/start_of_lightning_caught_on_camera_109418.html

WRTC-2018

WRTC-2018 qualification standings are available and include results of additional contests.

http://www.wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/wettbewerb-2/standings-2

http://www.wrtc2018.de/index.php/en/wettbewerb-2/standings-2?task=history

Time Domain Reflectometer

Using your signal generator and an oscilloscope, you can also create your own Time Domain Reflectometer (TDR). The article has a great background on the theory and practice.

http://www.allaboutcircuits.com/projects/build-your-own-time-domain-reflectometer/

Passwords

Using passwords that we must write down because we cannot remember them is not a "best practice." Researchers think they have found a way to make great passwords from easy to remember poems. You may want to take a pass on their additional offer to e-mail you a password-poem from information you mail to them - Though they promise that the information they used to generate your poem, and your poem, is deleted... how do you really know.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonkblog/wp/2015/10/22/these-researchers-have-discovered-the-perfect-password-thats-also-easy-to-remember/

Technical Web Site of the Week

RemoteQTH.com, this web site has a number of interesting station automation and station accessory oriented projects, which may provide inspiration or a foundation for your own. Schematics are available for nearly everything on the site, as part of the Open Source Hardware philosophy. If you need a PCB or parts, links are provided.
http://remoteqth.com/

Palmyra DXpedition to Sign On as K5P

When the Palmyra DXpedition gets under way in January 2016, operators will be using the call sign K5P. The Pacific Islands DXpedition Group has been granted permission to activate Cooper Island in the Palmyra Atoll. Palmyra and Jarvis Islands (KH5) ranks number nine on ClubLog's DXCC Most Wanted List. "After many months of planning, securing permits and negotiating contracts with the US Fish and Wildlife and the Nature Conservancy, we are quickly approaching the much anticipated DXpedition to Palmyra," co-leaders Craig Thompson, K9CT, and Lou Dietrich, N2TU, said in a recent news release. A team of 12 operators will operate five stations from 11 to 26 January.
http://palmyra2016.org/.

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter